

Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2005 May 4, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A composition which is an aqueous, energy curable, homogenous, solution comprising the neutralization product of

- (a) an ethylenically unsaturated acidic resin containing carboxylic acid, acrylic functional groups, methacrylic functional groups or a combination thereof, and
- (b) an ethylenically unsaturated amine; in
- (c) more than 10% but less than 30% by weight of water;

where upon curing with an actinic radiation source, a stereo-crosslinked ionomer forms offering the composition an increased cross-linked density.

2. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated resin is a styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer, partially esterified with a hydroxy alkyl acrylate or methacrylate functional group.

3. (Currently amended) A composition which is an aqueous, energy curable, homogenous, solution comprising the neutralization product of

- (a) a styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer, partially esterified with a hydroxy alkyl acrylate or methacrylate functional group. The composition of claim 2 wherein the partially esterified styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer is further esterified with an alcohol group, and
- (b) an ethylenically unsaturated amine; in
- (c) more than 10% but less than 30% by weight of water;

where upon curing with an actinic radiation source, a stereo-crosslinked ionomer forms offering the composition an increased cross-linked density.

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SS  
8/23/06